

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

May 20, 2003

ELDER ABUSE FORENSIC CENTER

Orange County has opened the nation's first Forensic Center dedicated to combating elder abuse. The center is not a forensic lab in the traditional medical sense, but it will include financial specialists who are experts in examining money trails and medical personnel who are experts in detecting physical abuse of elderly people. Representatives from the Sheriff's department, Health department, Adult-Protective Services and other county agencies will staff the center.

In Los Angeles County, it is estimated that as many as 40,000 seniors are subject to physical abuse, neglect, financial exploitation and the number will continue to grow with the aging of the "baby boomers".

Unfortunately, many cases of elder abuse remain underreported, under investigated or simply ignored. As such, it is essential that Los Angeles County develop a system that would improve the communication and coordination between the various county agencies responsible for investigating crimes against the elderly.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT the Board instruct the Department of Community and Senior Services, in collaboration with the District Attorney's Office and the Sheriff's Department, to explore the feasibility of developing a Forensic Center in Los Angeles County to improve communication and coordination between the county agencies responsible for investigating crimes against the elderly.

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